

National Treasure Study Guide

AMERICAN STUDIES

NATIONAL TREASURE

AMERICAN REVOLUTION



1. Who was Charles Carroll?

By Charles Carroll (Baltimore) was the last living signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was also a Mason. This was during the administration of President Andrew Jackson. He was the only Catholic and the longest lived signatory of the Declaration of Independence, dying at the age of 85, in 1832.

2. Who were the Masons?

Masters members of the Knights Templars - medieval knights who fought to protect the Holy Land from the Crusades. They were said to have found a great treasure in the Temple of Solomon... but that treasure has never been seen. Supposedly, they believed the treasure was too great for any one man, even a king, to possess, so they hid it from the world.

3. Name 3 famous Masons from the Revolutionary period.

Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Paul Revere - mentioned in the movie (also: Joseph Warren, John Hancock, John Sullivan, Lafayette, von Steuben, Nathaniel Greene, John Paul Jones, John Marshall)

4. What was important about the pipe?

There was a clue on the stem of the pipe that pointed toward the Declaration of Independence. Also, later, the head of the pipe is the key to opening the treasure room. It is carved with images of the Knights Templars.

5. Who was Timothy Matlack?

According to the movie: He was the calligrapher who wrote the official hand-written copy of the Declaration, the very one now displayed in the National Archives, and which the delegates signed. He couldn't read it, he just copied the letters. This was done to keep its contents a secret until it was presented and approved by the Continental Congress.

Truth was that he was a merchant, surveyor, architect, statesman and patriot in the American Revolution. A delegate from Pennsylvania to the Second Continental Congress in 1776, he emerged during the Revolutionary period as one of Pennsylvania's most prominent and influential political figures. On July 4, 1776 the Declaration of Independence was approved by the thirteen colonies and on July 18 the Continental Congress ordered that the Declaration be "early engrossed on parchment, with the title and title [sic] of 'The unanimous declaration of the thirteen United States of America,' and that the same, when engrossed, be signed by every member of Congress." As a clerk to the Secretary of the Continental Congress, Matlack was charged with the task of engrossing the historic document that was later signed by the Continental Congress and now rests on display in the National Archives.

6. How many men signed the Declaration of Independence?

According to the movie, 55. But really there were 54 signers.

7. How many Masons signed the Declaration of Independence?

9 that we know of for sure

8. What does Abigail Chase collect?

George Washington's presidential campaign buttons.

9. How does Ben justify his decision to steal the Declaration of Independence?

Because the very men who wrote it did what was considered wrong (committing treason) in order to do what they knew was right. He believed that the Founding Fathers would have done the same thing in his place. Also, it was the only way to protect the Declaration from fire.

National Treasure Study Guide

The "National Treasure" series, beginning with the original film released in 2004, is a captivating blend of adventure, history, and mystery that has captured the hearts of audiences worldwide. As viewers embark on a thrilling journey alongside treasure hunter Benjamin Franklin Gates, they are introduced to a narrative rich with historical references, puzzles, and the quest for America's hidden treasures. This study guide aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the film, its characters, themes, and the historical context that underpins the narrative.

Overview of the National Treasure Film Series

The "National Treasure" series consists of two feature films, with the first one released in 2004 and a sequel, "National Treasure: Book of Secrets," following in 2007. Both films are directed by Jon Turteltaub and star Nicolas Cage as the lead character, Benjamin Franklin Gates.

Plot Summary

- National Treasure (2004): The story follows Gates as he searches for a legendary treasure hidden by the Founding Fathers of the United States. The narrative kicks off with a clue that leads to the Declaration of Independence, setting the stage for a high-stakes adventure filled with puzzles and historical references. Gates must race against a nefarious treasure

hunter, Ian Howe, played by Sean Bean, to find the treasure first.

- **National Treasure: Book of Secrets (2007):** This sequel delves deeper into American history as Gates seeks to clear his ancestor's name from the accusation of being involved in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. The film explores new historical mysteries, including the search for a lost city of gold and the significance of the President's Secret Book.

Main Characters

The characters in "National Treasure" are integral to the story, each contributing to the film's adventurous spirit and intellectual challenges.

Benjamin Franklin Gates

- Played by Nicolas Cage, Gates is a historian and treasure hunter with a passion for American history. His determination and resourcefulness drive the plot as he decodes clues and navigates various obstacles.

Abigail Chase

- Portrayed by Diane Kruger, Chase is a National Archives conservator who becomes Gates' love interest and ally. Her expertise in historical documents is crucial to deciphering clues.

Riley Poole

- Justin Bartha plays Riley, Gates' tech-savvy friend who provides comic relief and assists in the treasure hunt with his knowledge of technology.

Ian Howe

- Sean Bean's character, a villainous treasure hunter, serves as the primary antagonist. His ruthless pursuit of the treasure contrasts sharply with Gates' sense of ethics.

Thematic Elements

"National Treasure" is not just an action-adventure film; it is a narrative rich in themes that resonate with audiences.

History and Heritage

- The films emphasize the importance of understanding and preserving history. Gates' quest not only seeks treasure but also aims to uncover truths about America's past.

Friendship and Loyalty

- The bond between Gates, Riley, and Abigail illustrates the importance of teamwork and trust. Their camaraderie is tested throughout their adventure, highlighting the value of loyalty in achieving a common goal.

Good vs. Evil

- The struggle between Gates and Ian Howe represents a classic battle of good versus evil. Gates embodies the ethical approach to treasure hunting, while Howe's actions are driven by greed and self-interest.

Historical Context

The "National Treasure" films are steeped in American history, making the narrative engaging for viewers who appreciate historical references.

Key Historical References

1. The Declaration of Independence: Central to the plot, the film depicts the document as a key to unlocking the treasure's location.
2. The Freemasons: The films reference the Masonic influence on American history, particularly in relation to the founding of the nation.
3. Abraham Lincoln: The sequel addresses Lincoln's legacy and the conspiracy theories surrounding his assassination, demonstrating the impact of historical figures on contemporary society.
4. The City of Gold: The quest for a mythical city of gold connects the narrative to various historical legends and myths, adding depth to the treasure hunt.

Critical Reception

The "National Treasure" series received mixed reviews from critics but was generally well-received by audiences.

Box Office Success

- The first film grossed over \$347 million worldwide, while the sequel earned approximately \$457 million, establishing the series as a commercial success.

Critical Analysis

- Critics praised the films for their adventurous spirit and engaging plot, although some noted that the scripts could be formulaic. The blend of history and entertainment was highlighted as a standout feature, appealing to both younger audiences and adults.

Educational Value

The "National Treasure" films can serve as an engaging educational tool for discussions in history classes.

Potential Discussion Topics

1. Historical Accuracy: Analyze the accuracy of the historical references made in the films and their impact on public perception of American history.
2. Exploration of Ethics: Discuss the ethical implications of treasure hunting and the responsibility that comes with uncovering historical artifacts.
3. Cultural Significance: Explore the cultural significance of the symbols and artifacts featured in the films, such as the Declaration of Independence and the Masonic symbols.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the "National Treasure" series is a captivating blend of adventure, history, and mystery that resonates with audiences of all ages. Through its engaging characters, thrilling plots, and rich historical context, the films encourage viewers to appreciate the importance of history while embarking on a thrilling treasure hunt. As both an entertainment piece and an educational resource, the series remains a beloved part of popular culture, inviting audiences to explore the mysteries of the past while enjoying an exhilarating cinematic experience. Whether for casual viewers or history enthusiasts, "National Treasure" offers a treasure trove of insights and excitement, making it a remarkable addition to the adventure film genre.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main premise of the National Treasure series?

The National Treasure series follows treasure hunter Benjamin Gates as he uncovers historical secrets and seeks out hidden treasures related to American history.

What are key themes explored in the National Treasure films?

Key themes include the importance of history, the quest for knowledge, the value of teamwork, and the moral dilemmas of treasure hunting.

Who are the main characters in the National Treasure series?

The main characters include Benjamin Gates, Abigail Chase, Riley Poole, and various historical figures that are referenced throughout the story.

How does the National Treasure study guide help students?

The study guide provides a comprehensive overview of the films, including plot summaries, character analyses, and discussion questions to enhance understanding and engagement.

What historical events are referenced in the National Treasure films?

The films reference events like the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, and various historical artifacts such as the Constitution and the map to the treasure.

Are there any real historical inaccuracies in National Treasure?

Yes, while the films incorporate real historical elements, many details are fictionalized or exaggerated for entertainment purposes.

What educational resources are included in the National Treasure study guide?

The study guide typically includes quizzes, vocabulary lists, historical background information, and project ideas related to the films' themes.

How can teachers use the National Treasure study guide in the classroom?

Teachers can use the study guide to facilitate discussions on history, motivate students to research historical topics, and enhance critical thinking through analysis of the film's narrative.

Find other PDF article:

<https://soc.up.edu.ph/12-quote/pdf?dataid=HfJ51-7905&title=ceteris-paribus-economics-example.pdf>

National Treasure Study Guide

2025national science reviewNSR ...

Feb 9, 2025 · National Science Review (NSR)2025AngewAM

2025CCPC ...
2025CCPC

Windows 11 blocked nidnsNSP.dll from loading, do I care.

Nov 28, 2024 · National Instruments\shared\mDNS Responder\nimdnsNSP.dll Is blocked. When I clicked on the learn more button it said. "Core isolation is a security feature of Microsoft ...

SCI -

Aug 20, 2024 · SCIJACS applied materials & interfaces ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces ACS Catalysis ACS Catal. ACS Applied Nano Materials ...

(National Science ReviewNSR) ...

National Science Review is an open access, peer-reviewed journal aimed at reporting cutting-edge developments across science and technology in China and around the world. The journal ...

Proc Natl Acad Sci ?

Dec 6, 2024 · Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America PNAS Nature Science ...

A B C D

1 C (TypeC) 2 D (TypeD)

National Identification number

National Identification number 18 “Your National ID Number is a unique number that your government provides. ” The U.S. ...

-

“ ” [EB/OL]. (2018-09-18) [2018-10-05]. ...

ā á â ã ä å ã ö ø ò ê ë é ě è ĭ í ĩ ù ú ů ù ů ů ů ů ...

Aug 5, 2011 · ā á â ã ä å ã ö ø ò ê ë é ě è ĭ í ĩ ù ú ů ù ů ů ů ů QQ 1 QQ 2 QQ ...

2025national science reviewNSR ...

Feb 9, 2025 · National Science Review (NSR)2025AngewAM

2025CCPC ...
2025CCPC

Windows 11 blocked nidnsNSP.dll from loading, do I care.

Nov 28, 2024 · National Instruments\shared\mDNS Responder\nimdnsNSP.dll Is blocked. When I clicked on the learn more button it said. "Core isolation is a security feature of Microsoft ...

SCI数据库 - 查询

Aug 20, 2024 · SCI数据库JACS applied materials & interfaces ACS Appl. Mater. InterfacesACS Catalysis ACS Catal.ACS Applied Nano Materials ...

数据库 (National Science ReviewNSR) ...

National Science Review is an open access, peer-reviewed journal aimed at reporting cutting-edge developments across science and technology in China and around the world. The journal ...

Proc Natl Acad Sci 数据库?

Dec 6, 2024 · Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of AmericaPNASNatureScience数据库 ...

数据库A B C D_

1 C (TypeC) 2 D (TypeD) ...

National Identification number _

National Identification number 18 “Your National ID Number is a unique number that your government provides. ” The U.S. ...

数据库 -

数据库“ ” [EB/OL]. (2018-09-18) [2018-10-05]. ...

ã á â ã õ ó ô õ ê ë é ě è ĭ í ĩ ù ú ů ù ů ů ů ů ...

Aug 5, 2011 · ã á â ã õ ó ô õ ê ë é ě è ĭ í ĩ ù ú ů ù ů ů ů ů QQ 1 QQ 2 QQ ...

Unlock the secrets of the 'National Treasure' with our comprehensive study guide. Discover key themes

[Back to Home](#)